

CPE LISTENING FRIDAY NIGHT MISHAP

Instructions: Listen to Henry and Sam talking about problems one of them had when his wife was out of town. Answer the questions 1-5 below by choosing A-C

1. Where is Henry going this evening to pick up his wife?
 - A. the train station
 - B. the bus station
 - C. the airport
2. What was Henry doing Friday night when his problems started?
 - A. He was watching a game on TV with some pals.
 - B. He was playing basketball with a few of his friends.
 - C. He was having a barbeque with a couple of buddies.
3. The vase broke when one of Henry's friends:
 - A. hit it with a ball.
 - B. accidentally dropped it.
 - C. bumped into it with his arm.
4. How did the manuscript of the book become totally ruined?
 - A. It burned up in a fire.
 - B. Hot water damaged the entire copy.
 - C. Someone mistakenly threw it into the trash.
5. From the tone of the conversation, what sort of reaction does Henry expect from his wife about his misfortunes?
 - A. disappointment
 - B. anger
 - C. contentment



ANSWERS

1. the airport
2. He was watching a game on TV with some pals.
3. bumped into it with his arm.
4. It burned up in a fire.
5. anger

TRANSCRIPT

Sam: Hey, Henry, how's everything going, and what's with the flowers?

Henry: They're for my wife.

Sam: Oh, a wedding anniversary or something?

Henry: To tell the truth, it couldn't be worse. [Oh]. You see, I have to pick my wife up from the airport this evening, but while she was gone, there were a few minor mishaps.

Sam: Oh really? What happened?

Henry: Well, I had some of the guys over Friday night to watch a basketball game on TV, but one of them got all excited, and started horsing around, waving his arms, and he accidentally knocked over my wife's 250-year old Chinese porcelain vase given to her [Oh no!], given to her by her grandmother, and broke it beyond repair.

Sam: Man, have you tried . . .

Henry: . . . super glue? Yeap, but she would be able to tell in a second I was trying to pull something over her eyes.

Sam: Oh, wow. You're in hot water now.

Henry: If it had only been that.

Sam: Oh, there's more?

Henry: Yeah, you see, the water from the vase spilled all over the manuscript of a book my wife has been writing for the past two years. It blurred the ink over many of the pages. [Oh no.] And so one of

the guys had the bright idea of drying the pages by the fire while we watched, uh, the rest game, but a spark from the fire must have blown out and burned the manuscript to a crisp.

Sam: But what about an electronic file copy? Had one, didn't she?

Henry: Well, actually, her computer crashed the day before while I was playing some computer games, and I haven't been able to get it to work since.

Sam: Man, are you in trouble now. [I know.] You're going to have a hard time digging yourself out of this one. [Yeah.] Ah, so I get it now. You're buying the flowers for her as a part of some kind of peace offering, right?

Henry: No, not at all. They're for my funeral.

Sam: [laughter]